

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests entry of the above-noted amendments prior to examination of the above-identified application. This Preliminary Amendment is being filed prior to a first action in this application.

A check in the amount of \$396.00 is enclosed herewith for the fee associated with the additional claims resulting from the present preliminary amendment. Applicant submits that all of the claims now pending in the application are allowable over the art of record and respectfully and earnestly solicits early indication of same.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any underpayment, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 23-0920. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

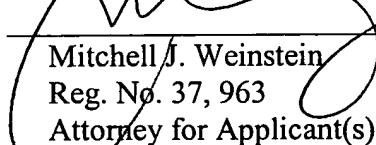
Submitted concurrently herewith is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the present amendment. The attached pages are entitled "CLAIMS MARKED UP TO INDICATE CHANGES."

Also attached hereto for the Examiner's convenience are pages entitled "CLEAN SET OF ALL PENDING CLAIMS FOLLOWING ENTRY OF THE PRESENT AMENDMENT".

Should the Examiner believe that a telephone interview would help expedite prosecution and allowance of the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully Submitted,
WELSH & KATZ, LTD.

Dated: March 6, 2002

By: 
Mitchell J. Weinstein
Reg. No. 37, 963
Attorney for Applicant(s)

WELSH & KATZ, LTD.
120 S. Riverside Plaza
22nd Floor
Chicago, Illinois 60606
Telephone: (312) 655-1500
Facsimile: (312) 655-1501